





FORM OF A COUNCIL.

OFFICERS AND THEIR STATIONS.

The officers of a Council of the U. L. A. are : A President, Vice President, Assistant Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Marshal, Herald, Sentinel, and Chaplain.

The P. occupies the principal station in the room ; V. P. and A. V. P. at opposite end and in front of the P. ; T., at the left hand of the P. ; Sec., at the right hand of the P. ; M., near the V. P. ; H., within the inner door ;

S., within the outer door, and Chaplain at the center of the room, on the right.

EMBLEMS.

Altar, Holy Bible, Declaration of Independence, U. S. Constitution, Flag of the Union, Censer of Incense,* Sword, Gavel, Ballot Box, and Sickle, Shuttle, Anvil, or other emblems of industry.

OPENING A COUNCIL.

(The P. assumes the chair, and gives one rap with the gavel.)

P.—I am about to open this Council. If there are any persons present not members of the Union League of America, they will please retire to the

*The Fire of Liberty, to be kindled in the Censer, is obtained by dissolving one pound of Gum Myrrh in half a gallon of Alcohol. Saturate a sponge with a small portion of this liquid, place the sponge in an iron vessel and set it on fire. A little Chloride of Strontia, in the proportion of one to eight of the above solution, sprinkled on the sponge, will change the flame to a beautiful red. These are to be found at most druggists; or, if these cannot be obtained, a taper or candle may be substituted.

ante-room. The officers will take their respective stations.

The door is closed.

P.—Mr. Marshal, you will satisfy yourself that all present are duly qualified, and report.

[The M. makes a careful examination, and reports.]

P.—I proclaim this Council open for the transaction of such business as may be lawfully brought before it.

Members respond—

So be it.

P. The Marshal will drape the Altar.

The M. will then proceed to place the Flag, etc., upon the Altar, the books being open, and the Sword laid across them. These must so remain while the C. is in session, and will be left in the care and custody of such officer as the P. shall direct, during the adjournment. Each C. should purchase these articles for its use.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Calling the roll of officers.

2. Reading the minutes of preceding meeting, and approval of same.

3. Examination of candidates elected, in ante-room, by the A. V. P., and M.

Initiations.

4. Election of officers, at such meetings as the same shall properly occur.

5. Propositions for membership received and referred.

6. Reports of Investigating Committees on application for membership, and balloting for candidates.

7. Reports of Committees.

1st. Committee on the State of the Union.

2d. Committee on Finance.

3d. Special Committees.

8. Unfinished business.

9. New business, and the good of the Order.

All business shall be conducted in usual parliamentary form.

The above order of business may be temporarily changed by a two-thirds vote.

After calling the roll of officers, the P. will fill the places of absentees by pro tem. appointment, where the By-Laws make no provision for the same.

INITIATION.

P.—The Marshal will proceed to the ante-room and ascertain if there are any candidates awaiting admission into our League, and instruct the Sentinel to admit no persons, except members, until those in waiting have passed into the Council room, or departed thence.

The M. will make the examination, return to the C, and in a distinct voice announce the names of those in waiting, and then hand to the P. a list of their names in writing.

P.—The Secretary will read the list of names.

The Sec. reads them.

P.—Mr. Secretary, have the names of these gentlemen been duly presented in open Council, and balloted for and elected?

The Sec. will answer according to the record. If a Sec. pro tem. is acting, who has not the records of the meeting at which the candidates were elected, members present may state the facts as to the action had on each of the applicants, and the C. will judge whether they have been duly proposed and elected. Those who have not should be politely requested by the M. to retire for that evening.

P.—The Assistant Vice President, with the Marshal as a witness, will retire to the ante-room and make known to the candidates the OBJECT of this League, and propound to them the necessary interrogatories, as provided in the Ritual.

The A. V. P. and M. retire to the ante-room, where the A. V. P. makes known the following:

OBJECT OF THE LEAGUE.

A. V. P.—Gentlemen, I am directed to state to you the object of this organization. It is, to preserve Liberty, perpetuate the Union of the United States of America, maintain the supremacy of the Laws and Constitution thereof against all enemies, foreign and domestic; to secure the ascendancy of American institutions on this continent; to protect, defend, and strengthen all loyal men and members of the Union League of America in all their rights of person or property; to demand the elevation and aid in the education of the labor and labor-

ing men of the whole country; to make our Councils schools for the prompt and proper instruction of all men in the duties of American citizenship, and for the inculcation of sentiments of true charity and brotherly affection among the members of our Order.

A. V. P. having informed you of the purposes of our Order, I now expect from you a promise of secrecy before proceeding further. Have I your solemn pledge to keep secret whatever may here transpire in your presence?

Answer must be in the affirmative.

To the questions now to be propounded, you will answer upon your honor, and under your pledge of secrecy—

1st. Do you fully subscribe to the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence?

Ans.—

2d. Do you acknowledge that your

first and highest allegiance, under God, is due to the Government of the United States of America?

Ans.—

3d. Are you willing to pledge yourself to resist, to the utmost extent of your power, all attempts to subvert or overthrow the Government of the United States?

Ans.—

4th. Will you strive to the extent of your ability for the maintenance of liberty; the elevation of labor; the education in the responsibilities and duties of American citizenship of all the people of this country; the practice of a true friendship and charity towards each and all of the Order, of which you are about to become a member, and for the election or appointment to all places of public trust of such men only as are reliable supporters of these principles and measures?

Ans.—

5th. Are you willing and do you

desire to bind yourself by a solemn oath to the maintenance of the principles and policy indicated in the interrogatories to which you have now affirmatively replied?

Ans.—

6th. Do you pledge your honor that you will obey all rules and orders of the Union League of America which shall not conflict with your lawful rights and privileges as a loyal citizen, and keep inviolate all secrets and ceremonies of the League when communicated to you as such?

Ans.—

Should the candidates answer the foregoing questions in the affirmative, the A. V. P. shall report to the P. and C. as follows:

A. V. P.—Mr. President, I have made the proper examination, and find all the candidates worthy, and willing to proceed.*

*If any of the candidates decline answering all the questions in the affirmative, the M. shall return to the C. room, report the facts to the P. and C., and ask for instructions. If the objection is trivial,

Unless the report be objected to by the Marshal or other person the President will direct as follows :—

P.—The Marshal will conduct the candidates to our Council.

The M. retires, and conducts the candidates to the door and makes the usual alarm.

H.—Who comes here under the private signal of our League?

M.—Candidates who, having been duly elected and examined, desire admission to our loyal band.

H.—Mr. President, the Marshal announces* candidates who, having been duly elected and examined, desire admission to our loyal band.

P.—The loyal and worthy are always welcome. Admit them.

The door is opened and the candidates, preceded by the M., enter, in double file, arm in arm, and

the P. will give such instructions to the M. as may remove it; but if it be to the OBJECT of the L., or the substance of an interrogatory, the M. will be directed to notify the objector that he has leave to retire, reminding him of his pledge of honor given on entering the ante-chamber.

passing around the Altar, are presented in front of the P's chair. As they enter the door the P. gives three raps of his gavel, which will call up the C. The Pres. rising, the M. will introduce the candidates each by name.

While the candidates are coming in and taking their places around the Altar, P. may direct the C. to sing a verse or more of some patriotic and appropriate Ode, as "The Flag of Our Union," "Rally Round the Flag, Boys," "Hail Columbia," "Star Spangled Banner," etc., which may be printed on cards for the use of the C.

By signal from the P., the members take their seats during the delivery of the address. Perfect silence is enjoined upon them. Noise or whispering distracts the attention of the candidates.

M.—Mr. Vice President, I have the pleasure of presenting these candidates for membership in our Union League.

ADDRESS.

V. P.—Gentlemen (or Sir): We rejoice that you have thus voluntarily come forward to unite with us. The cause we advocate is that of our country. Banded together for the purpose of perpetuating the liberties for which our fathers fought, we have sworn to protect them. In times of peril to our Government and the Union, it be-

came the sacred duty of all true patriots to unite their efforts for the preservation of Constitutional Freedom, and in thwarting the designs of traitors to destroy the tree of Liberty, planted by our patriot fathers and watered by their blood. Neither domestic traitors, nor foreign foes must be permitted to destroy this nation, nor to circumscribe the influence and progress of American institutions on this continent.

The first grand purpose of our organization has been accomplished through the combined efforts of our order and the gallantry and perseverance of our citizen soldiers, to whom our grateful acknowledgements and continued appreciation are ever due. The legitimate fruits of this triumph are yet to be secured in the complete ascendancy of the true principles of popular government; the establishment of equal Liberty; the education and elevation of the toiling masses of the Republic; the preser-

vation of the national honor and faith; the inculcation of a brotherly affection and true charity towards all; the complete and final overthrow at the ballot-box, as in the field, of the oligarchy of political leaders, who sought to ruin when they could not rule, and through whose errors and wrongs our country has been baptized in blood; the establishment here of an asylum for the oppressed of other lands, and of a beacon-light so prominent and enduring as to be seen by all nations for all time, and so unerring as to guide all peoples to the certain possession of rational and true Liberty.

By means of this Loyal League these grand purposes may be realized.

We ask none to join us who have not the noble sentiment of patriotism deeply implanted in their hearts, for such only are capable of rising above the level of the mere partisan, and claiming and defending the boon of freedom for its intrinsic value. It is to sustain the Government, and the

principles and policy we have indicated, that we are united, and for this purpose you are now required to take a solemn obligation, which I assure you does not in any way conflict with the duties you owe to yourself, your family, your country, or your God. With this assurance are you willing to take such an obligation?

Answer to be in the affirmative.

V. P.—The candidates will please turn and approach the altar.

Here the *P.* calls up the *C.* by four raps in couplets, and says:

P.—The Chaplain will now invoke the blessing of Almighty God upon our undertaking.

PRAYER.

Eternal God! Supreme Architect and Ruler of the Universe! We humbly beseech thee to protect the loyal people of the United States, and especially the members of this patriotic organization. Wilt Thou be pleased

to direct and prosper all our consultations to the advancement of Thy glory, the honor and welfare of Thy people; and may all things be ordered and settled by the co-ordinate branches of our Government, upon the best and surest foundations, so that peace and happiness, truth, liberty and justice may be established among us for all generations.

Save us, we pray Thee, from foreign foes and domestic traitors, and make us all faithful and true to the noble cause of Constitutional Liberty which Thou hast graciously committed to our care.

Be pleased to guide and direct us, as Thou didst our fathers ; with the strength of Thine Almighty arm Thou didst uphold and sustain them through all their fiery trials, and at last didst crown them with victory.

May we be united in love for our common country, imbued with sentiments of Liberty, attached to the principles of the Constitution, filled with

reverence for Thy Holy Law, and may Thy Good Spirit guide, strengthen and comfort us, now and forever. Amen.

Here, after darkening the room, the M. lights the Fire of Liberty, to burn during the administration of the Obligation; the members will be notified to join hands in a circle around the candidates and the Altar—the P. stepping within the circle.

When there are more candidates than can reach the Flag or Bible, they should be divided and obligated by sections.

The P. continues as follows :

Now place your left hand on the national flag and raise your right toward heaven, repeating after me the following Obligation :

OBLIGATION.

I (repeat your name after mine) do solemnly swear (or affirm) in the presence of God and these witnesses, that I will never voluntarily bear arms against the United States, while a citizen thereof; that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States, and the flag thereof, against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear

true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will also defend this State against any invasion, insurrection, or rebellion, to the extent of my ability. This I freely pledge without mental reservation or evasion. Furthermore, that I will do all in my power to elect true and reliable Union men and supporters of the Government, and none others, to all offices of profit or trust, from the lowest to the highest—in Ward, Town, County, State and General Government. And should I ever be called to fill any office, I will faithfully carry out the objects and principles of this L. And further, that I will protect, aid and defend all worthy members of the U. L. And that I will never make known in way or manner, to any person or persons *not members* of the U. L., any of the signs, passwords, proceedings, debates or plans of this or any other C. under this organization, except when engaged in admitting new members into this L. (Place your right hand upon the Holy

Bible, etc) And with my hand upon the Holy Bible, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States of America, under the seal of my sacred honor, I acknowledge myself firmly bound and pledged to the faithful performance of this my solemn obligation. So help me God.

Response by the members—

To this we pledge ourselves.

P.—Gentlemen, around you is a band of brothers alike sacredly pledged: This circle is never to be broken by **TREACHERY.**

Response by the members—

NEVER !

P.—Brothers, will you enlarge your circle to admit new members ?

Response—

We will.

P.—Prepare then for accessions to your ranks.

The circle will here be opened and the new members admitted.

P.—With clasped and up-lifted hands repeat after me the

FREEMAN'S PLEDGE.

To defend and perpetuate Freedom and the Union, I pledge my life, my fortune, and my sacred honor. So help me God.

[Here follows a patriotic ode at the discretion of the C.]

The members of the Council will now be seated, the candidates will take their places before the Altar.

CHARGE.

The OATH which you have now taken of your own free will and accord, cannot be violated without leaving the stain of perjury upon your soul. You have declared that, under God, your *first* and *highest* allegiance is to the Government of the United States. You have taken such an oath of allegiance, upon the Holy Bible, Constitution, and Declaration of Independence lying within the folds of the flag of the Union. These contain the enduring records of our rights and privileges.

The SYMBOLS OF INDUSTRY, which greet you upon the Altar, are to remind you of one of the main purposes of our Order, and to rep-

resent the foundation upon which our institutions rest. To strengthen and elevate this, is to add to the grandeur and durability of the structure we uphold.

The FLAG is the ensign of our American nationality—the visible emblem of the sovereignty of the Union. Its stars represent the sister States, its stripes the thirteen original States, its colors, Courage, Purity and Truth.

The BIBLE contains man's moral code, and the principles of his religious faith; points out his dependence on the Author of his being, his duty to his fellow-creatures, the reward of virtue and the punishment of vice.

The DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE declares as self-evident truths, that all men are created equal—that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It denies the despot's dogma of the "divine right of kings" to rule over mankind. It asserts that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; and solemnly affirms the right of the American people to govern themselves as a free and independent nation.

The CONSTITUTION is an instrument reducing to practice the precepts of the Declaration. It is Liberty regulated by Law. It defines and circumscribes the powers and duties of the National Government. It was "ordained by the Fathers, in order to form a

more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to themselves and their posterity.”

The SWORD is a weapon of protection and defense. By it and the aid of Divine Providence the Independence of the American people was obtained. With it we may defend the rights and liberties belonging to a free and loyal people, jealous of their country's glories, greatness and grandeur.

Lastly, the LIGHT you behold burning upon the Altar is emblematical of the sacred fires of Liberty that burn forever in the breasts of all true patriots.

We inculcate the spirit and arts of peace, as essential to national happiness and prosperity; but when foreign foes or treacherous hands attempt to rob us of our National inheritance, let a million gleaming swords leap from their rests and turn every way to guard the Temple of our Liberties.

Here the M. instructs the new members in the signs, etc. When these have been imparted, the P. may give a short history of the origin, present condition, and future prospects of the organization. He should impress upon the members the impropriety of

using the signs, etc., too often or carelessly, as it detracts from their value and increases their chances of exposure. It is enjoined on each officer to commit to memory his part of the initiatory ceremony.

Any portion of the foregoing charge may be omitted at the discretion of the President, and other appropriate words may be substituted.

The Council room should be rendered attractive by its emblems and ornaments and the neatness and order which must always prevail. It should be made instructive by ceremonies, the discussions, and by a good supply of appropriate reading matter. Should any person become a member who cannot read with facility, he should at once be instructed by some brother who will voluntarily undertake that duty. It is incumbent upon the President to see that this is done—we must thus banish ignorance from our Councils.

[The following or other patriotic Odes, at the discretion of the C., may be used in the Initiatory ceremonies.]

INTRODUCTION.

THE BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM.

Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys, we'll rally
once again,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom;
We will rally from the hill-side, we'll gather from
the plain,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom.

Chorus.—The Union forever,
Hurrah boys, hurrah!
Down with the Traitor,
Up with the Star;

While we rally round the flag, boys, rally once
again,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom!

We are springing to the call of our Brothers gone
before,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom!
And we'll fill the vacant ranks with a million Free-
men more,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom!

Chorus.

We will welcome to our numbers the loyal, true and
brave,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom;
And altho' he may be poor he shall never be a
slave,
Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom!

Chorus.

So we're springing to the call from the east and from
 the west,
 Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom ;
 And we'll hurl the rebel crew from the land we love
 the best,
 Shouting the battle-cry of Freedom !
Chorus.

[AFTER THE PRAYER.]

GOD SAVE THE STATE.

TUNE.—AMERICA.

God bless our native land :
 Firm may she ever stand,
 Through storm and night ;
 When the wild tempests rave,
 Ruler of wind and wave,
 Do thou our country save
 By thy great might.

For her our prayer shall rise
 To God, above the skies ;
 On him we wait :
 Thou who art ever nigh,
 Guarding with watchful eye,
 To thee aloud we cry,
 God save the State.

[AFTER THE PLEDGE.]

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the
 Lord :

He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes
of wrath are stored ;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible
swift sword :

His truth is marching on.

Glory, glory Hallelujah,
Glory, glory Hallelujah,
Glory, glory Hallelujah,
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred
circling camps ;
They have builded him an altar in the evening dews
and damps ;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and
flaring lamps :

His day is marching on.

Chorus.

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnished rows
of steel :
" As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my
grace shall deal ;
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent
with his heel,

Since God is marching on."

Chorus.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never
call retreat ;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judg-
ment-seat :
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him ! be jubilant,
my feet !

Our God is marching on.

Chorus.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across
 the sea,
 With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and
 me:
 As he died to make men holy, let us die to make
 men free,

While God is marching on.

Chorus.

INITIATION ODE.

AIR—"AULD LANG SYNE."

Land of our love, by heaven ordained
 Through time and change to be
 By thy eternal arm upheld,
 The heirdom of the free.
 The light that blessed thy natal morn
 Flashed from the throne of God,
 For freedom ever, and for Him
 To consecrate thy sod.

Land of our love! our lives are pledged
 To thee, for woe or weal—
 For thee to grasp the friendly hand
 Or greet the foeman's steel.
 Thy starry banner, born in strife,
 And gemmed in victory,
 Shall ever be to us and ours,
 The ensign of the free.

THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE.

Oh Columbia, the gem of the ocean,
 The home of the brave and the free;
 The shrine of each patriot's devotion,
 A world offers homage to thee—
 Thy mandates make heroes assemble,
 When Liberty's form stands in view ;
 Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
 When borne by the Red, White and Blue,
 When borne by the Red, White and Blue,
 When borne by the Red, White and Blue,—
 Thy banners make tyranny tremble,
 When borne by the Red, White and Blue.

When war winged its wide desolation,
 And threatened the land to deform,
 The ark then of freedom's foundation,
 Columbia rode safe through the storm ;
 With her garlands of victory around her,
 When so proudly she bore her brave crew,
 With her flag proudly floating before her,
 The boast of the Red, White and Blue—
 The boast of the Red, White and Blue,
 The boast of the Red, White and Blue—
 Her flag proudly floating before her,
 The boast of the Red, White and Blue.

The wine cup, the wine cup bring hither,
 And fill it up to the brim ;
 May the wreaths they have won never wither,
 Nor the star of their glory grow dim ;
 May the service united ne'er sever,
 But they to the colors prove true—
 The army and navy for ever ;
 Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue,
 Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue,
 Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue—
 The army and navy ne'er sever ;
 Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue.

GRAND NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER U. L. OF A.,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26, 1865.

It is hereby certified that the preceding pages are a correct and literal copy of the Ritual ordered by the National Convention of the Union League of America, at Washington, Dec. 13th, A. D. 1865, and that all authentic copies of said Ritual will be accompanied with this Certificate, over the signature of the Grand President and Grand Recording Secretary.

McDonald

G. D.

N. B. Brown G. R. S.









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